

Appl. Serial No. 09/836,952
Amendment dated September 4, 2007
Reply to Office Action Mailed June 1, 2007

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:
2 assigning information stored on a computer a plurality of clearance levels;
3 assigning each smart badge within a set of smart badges a corresponding one of the
4 clearance levels;
5 using a wireless beacon to detect which smart badges are located within a predefined
6 boundary;
7 identifying a lowest clearance level from among the clearance levels assigned to the
8 smart badges within the boundary; and
9 providing access to that sub-set of the information having a clearance level no higher than
10 the lowest identified clearance level.
- 1 2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 defining those smart badges within the boundary as a set of visible smart badges; and
3 updating the set of visible smart badges in response to a change in smart badge visibility
4 status.
- 1 3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
2 recalculating the lowest clearance level in response to the change in smart badge
3 visibility status.
- 1 4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
2 recording the smart badge visibility status of each smart badge within an activity log.
- 1 5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein providing includes:
2 providing access to smart badge wearers assigned to the smart badges.

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- 1 6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
2 preventing access to the information when the smart badge visibility status is set to
3 invisible for a predetermined timeout.
- 1 7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 writing data items to the smart badges.
- 1 8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 further comprising:
2 pre-reading the data items from the smart badges during idle periods.
- 1 9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising
2 defining a badge removal confidence level indicating whether each smart badge has been
3 continuously worn by corresponding assigned smart badge wearers.
- 1 10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 assigning an expiration period to each of the smart badges; and
3 de-authenticating and erasing all data stored on a smart badge whose expiration period
4 has been exceeded.
- 1 11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the using element includes:
2 configuring the predefined boundary by varying a sensitivity level of the wireless beacon.

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1 12. (Currently Amended) A method for context-aware computer management comprising:
2 assigning database information a plurality of clearance levels;
3 assigning each smart badge within a set of smart badges a corresponding one of the
4 clearance levels;
5 using a wireless beacon to detect which smart badges are located within a predefined
6 physical boundary;
7 identifying a lowest clearance level from among the clearance levels assigned to the
8 smart badges within the boundary;
9 providing access to that sub-set of the database information having a clearance level no
10 higher than the lowest identified clearance level on a computer located within the predefined
11 physical boundary;
12 defining those smart badges within the boundary as a set of visible smart badges;
13 updating the set of visible smart badges in response to a change in smart badge visibility
14 status; and
15 recalculating the lowest clearance level in response to the change in smart badge
16 visibility status.

1 13. (Currently Amended) A computer-usable medium embodying computer program code
2 [[for]] that when executed by a computer causes performance of context-aware computer
3 management, comprising:
4 assigning database information a plurality of clearance levels;
5 assigning each smart badge within a set of smart badges a corresponding one of the
6 clearance levels;
7 using a wireless beacon to detect which smart badges are located within a predefined
8 physical boundary;
9 identifying a lowest clearance level from among the clearance levels assigned to the
10 smart badges within the boundary; and
11 providing access to that sub-set of the database information having a clearance level no
12 higher than the lowest identified clearance level on a computer located within the predefined
13 physical boundary.

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1 14. (Currently Amended) The computer-usable medium of claim 13 wherein the
2 context-aware computer management further ~~comprising~~ comprises:
3 defining those smart badges within the boundary as a set of visible smart badges; and
4 updating the set of visible smart badges in response to a change in smart badge visibility
5 status.

1 15. (Currently Amended) The computer-usable medium of claim 14 wherein the
2 context-aware computer management further ~~comprising~~ comprises:
3 recalculating the lowest clearance level in response to the change in smart badge
4 visibility status.

1 16. (Previously Presented) The computer-usable medium of claim 13 wherein providing
2 includes:
3 providing access to the database information to smart badge wearers assigned to the
4 smart badges.

1 17. (Currently Amended) The computer-usable medium of claim 14 wherein the
2 context-aware computer management further ~~comprising~~ comprises:
3 preventing access to the database when the smart badge visibility status is set to invisible
4 for a predetermined timeout.

1 18. (Currently Amended) The computer-usable medium of claim 13 wherein the
2 context-aware computer management further ~~comprising~~ comprises:
3 defining a badge removal confidence level indicating whether each smart badge has been
4 continuously worn by corresponding assigned smart badge wearers.

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1 19. (Currently Amended) The computer-usable medium of claim 13 wherein the
2 context-aware computer management further comprising comprises:
3 assigning an expiration period to each of the smart badges; and
4 de-authenticating and erasing all data stored on a smart badge whose expiration period
5 has been exceeded.

1 20. (Currently Amended) A system for context-aware computer management comprising:
2 means for assigning database information a plurality of clearance levels;
3 means for assigning each smart badge within a set of smart badges a corresponding one
4 of the clearance levels;
5 means for using a wireless beacon to detect which smart badges are located within a
6 predefined physical boundary;
7 means for identifying a lowest clearance level from among the clearance levels assigned
8 to the smart badges within the boundary;
9 means for providing access to that sub-set of the database information having a clearance
10 level no higher than the lowest identified clearance level on a computer located within the
11 predefined physical boundary;
12 means for defining those smart badges within the boundary as a set of visible smart
13 badges;
14 means for updating the set of visible smart badges in response to a change in smart badge
15 visibility status; and
16 means for recalculating the lowest clearance level in response to the change in smart
17 badge visibility status.

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1 21. (Currently Amended) A system for context-aware computer management comprising:
2 a database, including information differentiated by a plurality of clearance levels;
3 a first wireless beacon;
4 a set of smart badges, detected by the first wireless beacon to be within a predefined
5 boundary, each badge assigned a corresponding one of the clearance levels;
6 a computer located within the boundary;
7 a system service module, coupled to the first wireless beacon, for identifying a lowest
8 clearance level from among the clearance levels assigned to the smart badges within the
9 boundary; and
10 a software application, coupled to the system service module and the database, for
11 providing access to that sub-set of the information within the database having a clearance level
12 no higher than the lowest identified clearance level on the computer.

1 22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the first beacon includes:
2 a wide angle RF beacon.

1 23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, further comprising:
2 a second diffuse IR beacon, coupled to the service module, limited to detecting smart
3 badges within the predefined boundary.

1 24. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the smart badges include:
2 biometric sensors for detecting when a smart badge has been removed from an assigned
3 smart badge wearer.

1 25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the service module
2 defines those smart badges within the boundary as a set of visible smart badges, and
3 recalculates the lowest clearance level in response to a change in a visibility status.

1 26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the application logs smart badge
2 wearers assigned to visible smart badges onto the computer.

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1 27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein providing access to the sub-set
2 of information comprises providing access to the sub-set of information stored on the computer
3 located within the predefined boundary.

1 28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless beacon comprises a
2 first wireless beacon to communicate with the smart badges, the method further comprising:
3 using a second wireless beacon to communicate with the smart badges,
4 wherein detecting which smart badges are located within the predefined boundary is
5 based on the first and second wireless beacons.

1 29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein using the second wireless
2 beacon comprises using the second wireless beacon to communicate with smart badges within
3 the predefined boundary and to communicate with smart badges outside the predefined boundary
4 through one or more blocking objects defining the predefined boundary, and
5 using the first wireless beacon comprises using the first wireless beacon to communicate
6 with smart badges within the predefined boundary, wherein the first wireless beacon is blocked
7 from communicating with smart badges outside the predefined boundary by the one or more
8 blocking objects.

1 30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein using the first wireless beacon
2 comprises using an infrared beacon, and wherein using the second wireless beacon comprises
3 using a radio frequency beacon.

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1 31. (Currently Amended) ~~An article comprising a~~ A computer-usable medium containing
2 program code that when executed cause a computer to:
3 store plural sub-sets of information, each sub-set of information associated with one of
4 plural clearance levels;
5 use at least a first wireless beacon to communicate with plural badges within a predefined
6 region, each of the plural badges associated with one of the plural clearance levels;
7 determine a lowest clearance level from among the clearance levels associated with the
8 badges in the predefined region; and
9 provide access to one or more sub-sets of the information having one or more respective
10 clearance levels no higher than the determined lowest clearance level.

1 32. (Currently Amended) The ~~article~~ computer-usable medium of claim 31, wherein
2 providing access to the one or more sub-sets of the information comprises displaying the one or
3 more sub-sets of the information having the one or more respective clearance levels no higher
4 than the determined lowest clearance level.

1 33. (Currently Amended) The ~~article~~ computer-usable medium of claim 31, wherein the
2 program code when executed cause the computer to further:
3 use a second wireless beacon to communicate with the plural badges in the predefined
4 region and to communicate with one or more badges outside the predefined region,
5 wherein the first wireless beacon is able to communicate with the plural badges within
6 the predefined region but is unable to communicate with the one or more badges outside the
7 predefined region; and
8 determining the badges that are within the predefined region based on the first and second
9 wireless beacons.

1 34. (Currently Amended) The ~~article~~ computer-usable medium of claim 31, wherein the
2 program code when executed cause the computer to further:
3 receive a parameter from each of the badges, the parameter indicating a confidence level
4 that the respective badge has been worn continuously by a user.

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1 35. (Currently Amended) The ~~article~~ computer-usable medium of claim 31, wherein the
2 program code when executed cause the computer to further:
3 re-determine the lowest clearance level as badges enter or leave the predefined region.

1 36. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:
2 storage to store sub-sets of information associated with corresponding plural clearance
3 levels;
4 a first wireless beacon to communicate wirelessly with badges within a predefined
5 region, each of the badges associated with one of the plural clearance levels;
6 a module to identify a lowest clearance level from among the clearance levels of the
7 badges within the predefined region; and
8 software to provide access to one or more sub-sets of information in the storage having
9 one or more clearance levels no higher than the identified lowest clearance level.

1 37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36, further comprising:
2 a second wireless beacon to communicate wirelessly with badges within the predefined
3 region and at least one badge outside the predefined region,
4 wherein the first wireless beacon is unable to communicate with the at least one badge
5 outside the predefined region,
6 the module to detect the badges that are within the predefined region based on the first
7 and second wireless beacons.

1 38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 37, wherein the second wireless beacon
2 comprises a radio frequency beacon, and the first wireless beacon comprises an infrared beacon.